



The Human Touch

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TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



From Robin's Pen

Governor's Budget: A Christmas Present for Human Services

It really felt like Christmas around here after looking at the Governor's proposed budget for Human Services. His recommendations are extremely responsive to the Department's requests for meeting the human service needs of growing special needs populations as well as addressing the loss of federal funds in many areas.

The Governor's recommended budget increases, if approved by the Legislature, mean we'll be able to help many additional people. Let me give you some examples:

Nearly 530 senior citizens will receive alternative in-home services, thereby preventing or delaying admission to a nursing home.

About 320 people with disabilities will move from the waiting list and begin being consumers of in-home and community-based services.

Another 110 people will be treated for methamphetamine addiction.

The state's drug court program will treat approximately 860 more people who have substance abuse problems, and the number of drug

courts also will be expanded.

Current adoption subsidies will be funded, and money also is available to help with 325 more adoptions expected next year.

Foster parents, who receive a basic fee of \$13.50 daily, will get a raise.

Youth Corrections will serve 75 additional youth daily in community alternative programs.

The Central Utah Youth Facility in Richfield will open with 16 new detention beds and eight observation and assessment beds.

More community services also will be available for the seriously mentally ill when Mental Health initiates its Program for Assertive Community

See additional legislative stories beginning on Page 3. They include: budget numbers, employee compensation, legislation for Child and Family Services, how a bill becomes a law, the budget process and how the state budget is approved

Treatment. Patients will be able to remain home while receiving the same services they would if hospitalized.

With respect to employee compensation, the Governor is recommending a 6 percent package including a merit increase, market adjustments and discretionary funds to allow Departments to address areas with high rates of turnover.

It looks like a very good year as we get ready for the legislative season. I hope it is just as good for all of you.

Foster Kids Haul in the Christmas Loot



Julie Roughton, above, from Bank One spent many hours wrapping Christmas presents for neighborhood children as did DHS staff, right

Story & Photos by Carol Sisco
DHS Public Information

Bicycles, huge dolls, high chairs and autographed basketballs were among the toys received by more than 300 Salt Lake City children who spent Christmas in foster care. The kids also got winter coats, jeans, Christmas outfits, sweaters, shoes and lots of other clothes.

The Division of Child and Family Services' Metro Unit coordinated the massive effort that included finding out what each child in our neighborhood wanted for Christmas. Then they sought volunteer shoppers.

Metro team members chipped in gifts. So did Human Services employees in the main administration building. And private industry provided a vast array of gifts. By the time the drive ended just before Christmas, the first floor conference room was piled to the ceiling with presents. Metro team members and industry representatives spent hours wrapping each gift and



the Metro Team delivered to each home.

Some people picked individual items kids wanted by taking an ornament from the Angel Tree with the child's first name, age, size and notice of what they wanted. Others brought in new, unwrapped toys and metro team members matched them to the right children.

"I was amazed at the response," said Jamie Hayden who coordinated the drive. Donations were received from Bank One, Pioneer Valley Dental, the Attorney General's Office, Coca Cola, THARCO, Wells Fargo Bank, Frito Lay, the Oquirrh First Ward, the Foster Care Foundation and many others.

Legislature About to Start

What the Numbers Say

Gov. Mike Leavitt recommended a \$578 million budget for Human Services, an 8.7 percent increase overall and 5.3 percent for Youth Corrections.

Those numbers include an employee compensation package that increased by \$27.5 million in ongoing state general funds and \$680,000 in one-time funding. The governor also recommended \$4.8 million in supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 01.

Some recommended budget increases include:

- \$2.7 million in ongoing state funds and \$1.8 million in supplemental funds for adoption subsidies.
- \$3 million to expand drug courts and \$500,000 for more methamphetamine treatment.
- \$2 million in new ongoing state funds to remove people from the waiting list in the Division of Services for People with Disabilities, \$1.5 million in new general funds to replace one-time funds appropriated last year and \$1.4 million to make up the Medicaid match rate change.
- \$1 million in new ongoing state funds for the Division of Aging and Adult Services' waiting list.
- \$824,800 in state funds to begin Mental Health's Program for Assertive Community Treatment.
- \$3 million in ongoing state funds and \$1.1 million in supplemental funds so Youth Corrections can expand its community alternatives programs.
- \$300,000 for the Christmas Box House children's shelter, \$200,000 more for domestic violence services and \$301,300 more for a foster parent rate increase.

Employee Benefits

By John Mathews
Human Resources Director

Gov. Mike Leavitt proposed an overall 6 percent benefit increase for state employees in his budget recommendations. The Legislature will consider his recommendations during their next



session.

The Governor recommends 2.53 percent for merit increases, 3.27 percent for discretionary increases and 1 percent for market compensation adjustments.

The discretionary funds, if approved, would be allocated to agencies to reward employees for excellent performance, to handle salary market hotspots and for other issues the agency deems appropriate.

Employees also would pay an additional 2 percent of health insurance premiums and higher co-pays. Following legislative approval, the final compensation package becomes effective next July.

The Budget Process

The Governor prepares a proposed budget each year that the Legislature must review. Legislators also have their analysts prepare a separate budget. Ultimately they approve a final budget that includes funding for all state government agencies.

The Senate President and Speaker of the House appoint members of nine appropriations subcommittees. Each subcommittee considers a specific portion of the budget and issues recommendations to the executive appropriations committee. Legislators alter the budget as necessary and approve it. The Governor and Executive Branch are charged with administering the budget.

More Legislature on Next Page

DCFS Legislation

By Linda Wininger, DCFS

The Division of Child and Family Services supports several bills at the upcoming Legislature. They include:

- Shelter Care Options, sponsored by Sen. Bill Wright, provides alternatives to removing a child from the home if the remaining parent is not the abusive one. Options may include removing the abusive parent or taking the child and unoffending parent to a domestic violence shelter. DCFS would continue to monitor the child's well-being.

- Three bills, sponsored by Sen. Lyle Hillyard, would change DCFS's relationship with the courts. The first grants DCFS access to Juvenile Court records. The second limits access to DCFS record information governed by GRAMA and the third provides an opportunity to appeal all administrative hearing decisions in Juvenile Court.

- Legislation sponsored by Rep. Matt Throckmorton includes a provision requiring courts to give DCFS five day's notice before placing children in Division custody for reasons other than abuse or neglect. The court also must determine "reasonable efforts" were attempted to avoid removing the child from home. All child protective service requirements contained in the state's settlement agreement would become mandatory under Throckmorton's second bill

- Provisions allowing DCFS to contract with independent entities to investigate child protective services referrals on foster parents is included in legislation sponsored by Sen. Craig W. Butters.

DCFS has worked closely with a group of child advocates on the proposed legislation. The group included representatives from the Attorney General's Office, Guardian ad Litem, Juvenile Court administration and the DCFS Board and was spearheaded and organized by Utah Children. Through this process we have been able to find changes that meet Division needs but also are supported by advocates.

How Bills Become Laws

Here's a quick refresher on how bills become laws at the Utah Legislature which starts its 45-day session on Capitol Hill Jan. 15.

Legislators generally propose bills after being contacted by constituents. The bill may start in either the House of Representatives or the Senate but must go through both houses and be signed into law by the governor. The following examples follow a bill that begins in the House.

The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel prepares the bill.

The bill is introduced in the House (the first reading). The House Rules Committee examines it for proper form and fiscal impact and recommends assigning it to a standing committee.

The assigned committee holds a public meeting to review it. They may amend, hold, table or change it or issue a favorable recommendation.

The committee report is read to the House of Representatives and adopted by motion. This action is considered the second of three required readings. The bill is placed on the calendar for third reading.

The bill is read to the House, the sponsor answers questions and other representatives may speak and propose amendments. Representatives vote. The bill must receive at least 38 votes, a majority of 75 Representatives.

The bill then goes to the Senate where it follows a very similar process of moving through standing committees, placement on the Senate's second reading calendar, an initial vote, another reading and debate. It must receive at least 15 of 29 possible votes.

The Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel examines the bill in a process known as enrolling. The final copy is sent to the Governor for signature. It automatically becomes law if he fails to sign it. The Governor also may veto it. A bill is effective 60 days after the Legislature adjourns unless another date is specified.

Janetha Hancock Moves To Human Services

By Carol Sisco, DHS Public Information

Janetha Hancock, who wrote many of the laws Human Services operates under during her 16 years at the Legislature, will see how well they work in her new job as Office of Legal Compliance and Legislative Affairs Director for the Department of Human Services.



Janetha Hancock

Hancock will manage legislative affairs, the Office of Child Protection Ombudsman and the Bureau of Services Review staff. She drafted legislation that created both offices.

“Human Services already has a good relationship with the Legislature, but I’d like to make those relationships easier and more accessible,” said Hancock who spent 16 years as an associate general counsel for the Legislature. She handled health and human services issues the entire time and also staffed the Legislature’s Child Welfare Oversight Panel.

“It was time to make a change,” Hancock said. “It’s good to get closer to the real issues. It was a little removed and more scholarly up at the Legislature. It’s good to be closer to people and the things that are going on.”

Hancock earned her undergraduate degree in journalism from Brigham Young University, served as managing editor at the Daily Universe and completed a Deseret News internship before attending law school.

“I always wanted to do something working with people issues but it was hard to find a job that would pay you,” she said. When Hancock expressed interest in human services and family law issues at law school, her professors advised against mentioning that in job interviews since it probably

wouldn’t lead to a job.

Hancock’s position was created as part of a DHS Director’s Office reorganization as Jean Nielsen retires.

She worked in a private law firm for two years before going to the Legislature where she immediately gravitated toward the Health and Human Services committees. Hancock grew up in Iowa, Denver and Salt Lake City. She returned to Salt Lake to ski and attend college.

Get Healthier for 2002

By B. J. VanRoosendaal, Substance Abuse

Department of Human Services employees will be featured in stories promoting “A Healthier You 2002” starting with the January-February edition of the Human Touch.

While not widely known, “Healthier You” is an educational program supported by Salt Lake Organizing Committee. The program objective is to maximize Utahns’ health by using the Olympic spirit and enthusiasm to encourage as many people as possible to participate.

The committee formed partnerships with 16 Utah agencies, including the Division of Substance Abuse in Human Services. “Healthier You’s” goals are drawing more attention to physical activity and nutrition and are directly related to the healthy and drug-free lifestyle encouraged by the Division of Substance Abuse.

Substance Abuse staff will write Personal Health Profiles on various Human Services employees. These informative and “fun” profiles will highlight how various Human Service employees have added physical activity to their lives and will encourage fellow employees to do the same. The profiles also should “help readers get ideas of how to incorporate physical activity into their daily lives from the experiences of other busy people,” according to the Healthier You 2002 Planning Committee.

Be on the lookout for the first Healthier You
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Outgoing Drug Czar McCaffrey Visits Utah

By B. J. VanRoosendaal, Substance Abuse

National Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey visited Salt Lake City early in December to convene the White House Task Force on Drugs and Sports, a group looking at ways to minimize doping and drug use in sports.

McCaffrey, Office of National Drug Control Policy Director, visited Utah to assure some important work he initiated continues prior to his leaving office in January.

The task force includes Olympic officials, athletes, Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt and Brandon Slay, the American wrestler belatedly awarded a gold medal this year after his German opponent failed a drug test.



“What competitors want is an assurance that they don’t have to use performance-enhancing drugs,” McCaffrey said. He also strongly criticized past anti-drug efforts by the

International Olympic Committee and other sports groups.

The federal government will contribute \$3.3 million for anti-drug efforts at the 2002 Olympics. But the Olympics aren’t McCaffrey’s only interest. He has focused attention on drug abuse in every facet of American life during his tenure.

The focus in how substance abuse should be fought also has changed. Treatment and prevention have become more important than controlling the “supply side” of the drug problem. Substance abuse professionals generally applaud his focus. So Utah’s substance abuse workers enjoyed participating in brainstorming sessions at the Task Force on Drugs in Sports meeting and to bidding the director farewell.

As a Deseret News editorial so aptly stated, “the nation, as well as the Olympic movement, will miss his no-nonsense candor and his unending determination to enact common-sense policies that keep people away from harmful substances.”

Healthier You...

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profile in the January-February Human Touch. Our first profile will be a person many of you know. Also, if someone in your area would make an interesting profile, please contact Carol Sisco or B.J. VanRoosendaal at Human Services. Both are on state e-mail.



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